Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2178

CONFIDENTIAL GEORGETOWN 2194

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DEPT PLS PASS PEKING AND CARACAS AS INFO

FOR THE SECRETARY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MOPS CU GY AO

SUBJ: TRANSIT FACILITIES FOR CUBAN MILITARY FLIGHTS

REF: STATE 302692; B. GEORGETOWN 2193

- 1. I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN THAT GUYANA MAY GRANT FACILITIES TO CUBAN AIRLIFT AND MAY IN FACT HAVE DONE SO ALREADY ON LIMITED BASIS. AS I BELIEVE YOU HAVE SURMISED, I CONTINUE TO HARBOR DOUBT THAT A HIGH-LEVEL PERSONAL MESSAGE TO PM BURNHAM WILL PRODUCE THE RESULT WE WANT. I BELIEVE, MOREOVER, WE HAVE GUYANA'S FONMIN FRED WILLS ON OUR SIDE IN THIS INSTANCE TO MUCH GREATER DEGREE THAN ON OTHER RECENT ISSUES: E.G. KOREA; ZIONISM.
- 2. I SUGGEST YOU READ MY REPORT OF CONVERSATION AT NOON TODAY (REFTEL B) WITH FRED WILLS. IN IT YOU WILL NOTE THAT THE CUBANS HAVE CAREFULLY REFRAINED FROM ASKING FOR USE OF GUYANESE FACILITIES FOR QUOTE MILITARY UNQUOTE PURPOSES AND THAT WILLS BELIEVES BURNHAM WOULD DENY USE OF GUYANESE FACILITIES IF IT WERE DISCOVERED CUBANS WERE VIOLATING THE TERMS OF THE CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT BY FERRYING MILITARY PERSONNEL OR EQUIPMENT ON FLIGHTS TRANSITING GEORGETOWN.
- 3. BURNHAM IS AN INTENULY PROUD MAN. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES CONFIDENTIAL

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DESCRIBED ABOVE, I AM CONCERNED THAT HE MIGHT MISINTERPRET

YOUR MESSAGE AS SET FORTH IN REFTEL, AND THAT THE DELIVERY OF THE MESSAGE MIGHT THEREFORE BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

4. IN LIEU OF DELIVERING MESSAGE IMMEDIATELY, I WOULD PROPOSE, FOR YOUR APPROVAL, THAT I SEE FRED WILLS AGAIN AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY AND PUT CASE TO HIM IN FOLLOWING TERMS.
I WOULD SAY THAT HE CANNOT HELP BUT BE AWARE OF USG POSITION ON CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA, AND THAT WE WOULD THEREFORE FIND IT INCONSISTENT WITH GOG POLICY ON ANGOLAN CONFLICT, AS HE HAS OUTLINED IT TO ME IN OUR SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS, WERE GUYANA TO ALLOW CUBANS TO USE TIMEHRI AIRPORT, EITHER OPENLY OR COVERTLY, FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. I WOULD ADD THAT SINCE MY LAST CONVERSATION I HAVE RECEIVED MESSAGE INDICATING CONTINUING CONCERN ON YOUR PART WITH THIS SITUATION, AND THAT IN COUNSELING YOU I WOULD LIKE HIS ADVICE ON WHETHER A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM YOU TO BURNHAM WOULD BE HELPFUL OR OTHERWISE.

5. THIS WOULD GIVE WILLS A OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY YOUJ PERSONAL CONCERN TO PM WITHOUT ACTUAL DELIVERY OF MESSAGE AND AVOID RISK OF PUSHING BURFHAM IN WRONG DIRECTION.

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